

I believe that the ARRL's proposal should be refused. It was proposed to the FCC without adequate consultation of it's members, and does not seem to reflect the opinion of the majority of it's members or that of most amateur radio operators at all.

Personally, I would like to see a Novice class where new ops could get their feet wet on the HF bands as well as the VHF/UHF bands, provided there was adequate testing to assure that the new ops would be ready to deal with the aspects of HF operation. I would also like to see morse testing remain for the General and Extra classes at 5 w.p.m.

What I dislike the most about the proposal is the automatic upgrade from Technician class to General class. In my opinion, it makes no sense to possibly allow someone that has not had to be tested on the very basics of theory and operating procedure on those bands. The current General theory test is definitely not rocket science, and is well within the grasp of those with a legitimate interest in operating below 30 Mhz. If someone wants only to use those frequencies and is too lazy to learn the basics, or cannot pass a test on what they need to know to use the bands in the first place, they will obviously cause problems on those bands.

While I believe that a new Novice class such as this with very small segments on a few HF bands would help keep many ops from dropping out of the service due to a lack of interest, The ARRL proposal as a whole is in my opinion NOT the way to achieve this, and will cause more harm than good in the quest to update Amateur Radio license structuring.

Sincerely,

George Crouch Jr., KC8QMU